## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A computer program on a computer readable medium for use in a computer having an operating system, the computer program comprising code for:

determining a plurality of application programs that are to be launched by the operating system;

determining a program launch procedure associated with the application programs, the program launch procedure defining a sequence in which the application programs are to be launched by the operating system, the sequence based on the functionality of at least one of the application programs; and

defining a predetermined contingency related to the launch of one of the application programs when another of the application programs accesses certain data after it is launched and reaches a predefined point in the launch process; and

launching the other application programs with the operating system based on the program launch procedure.

2. (original) The computer program of claim 1, wherein launching the application programs based on the program launch procedure comprises:

launching one of the application programs;

after a predetermined length of time, launching another of the application programs.

3. (currently amended) The computer program of claim 1, wherein launching the application programs based on the program launch procedure comprises:

launching one of the application programs;

2

in response to a <u>the</u> predetermined contingency, launching another of the application programs <u>comprises including predefined program dependencies as data in a system registry for specifying the predetermined contingency</u>.

4. (original) The computer program of claim 1, wherein the program launch procedure is specified by a user via a user interface device.

5. (original) The computer program of claim 1, wherein determining a program launch procedure associated with the application programs comprises accessing a data file stored in a memory.

6. (original) The computer program of claim 1, wherein the program launch procedure further defines an operating system restriction for at least one of the application programs.

7. (original) The computer program of claim 1, wherein the launching the application programs with the operating system is initiated by the operating system.

8. (currently amended) A method for controlling the manner in which application programs are launched on a computer, the computer comprising a processor adapted to control the operation of the computer and memory comprising an operating system that includes a system initialization program adapted to store a list of programs to be launched by the operating system, the method comprising the steps of:
storing a reference to a program launch management module in the system initialization program, the program launch management module configured to:
determine application programs that are to be launched by the operating system;
determine a program launch procedure associated with the application programs, the program launch procedure defining a sequence in which the application programs are to be launched, the sequence based on the functionality of at least one of the application programs; ~~and~~

3

defining a predetermined contingency related to the launch of one of the application programs when another of the application programs accesses certain data after it is launched and reaches a predefined point in the launch process; and

launch ~~the~~ other application programs based on the program launch procedure; and

accessing the system initialization program and executing the program launch management module.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of installing the application programs on the computer before the step of storing a reference to a program launch management module in the system initialization program.

10. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein launching the application programs based on the program launch procedure comprises:

launching one of the application programs;

after a predetermined length of time, launching another of the application programs.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein launching the application programs based on the program launch procedure comprises:

launching one of the application programs;

in response to a the predetermined contingency, launching another of the application programs ~~comprises~~ including predefined program dependencies as data in a system registry for specifying the predetermined contingency.

12. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the program launch procedure is specified by a user via a user interface device.

4

13. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein determining a program launch procedure associated with the application programs comprises accessing a data file stored in a memory.

14. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the program launch procedure further defines an operating system restriction for at least one of the application programs.

15. (original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of initializing the operating system after the step of storing a reference to a program launch management module in the system initialization program.

16. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the operating system is Windows-based.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the system initialization program comprises a RunOnce key in a system registry associated with the operating system.

18. (original) A method for controlling the launching of application programs by an operating system, the method comprising the steps of:

determining application programs that are to be launched by the operating system;

determining a program launch procedure associated with the application programs, the program launch procedure defining a sequence in which the application programs are to be launched by the operating system, the sequence based on the functionality of at least one of the application programs; and

defining a predetermined contingency related to the launch of one of the application programs when another of the application programs accesses certain data after it is launched and reaches a predefined point in the launch process; and

launching the other plurality of application programs based on the program launch procedure.

5

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of launching the application programs based on the program launch procedure comprises the steps of:

       launching one of the application programs;

       after a predetermined length of time, launching another of the application programs.

20. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of launching the application programs based on the program launch procedure further comprises the steps of:

       launching one of the application programs;

       in response to a the predetermined contingency, launching another of the application programs comprises including predefined program dependencies as data in a system registry for specifying the predetermined contingency.

21. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the program launch procedure is specified by a user via a user interface device.

22. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of determining a program launch procedure associated with the application programs further comprises the step of accessing a data file stored in a memory.

23. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the program launch procedure further defines an operating system restriction for at least one of the application programs.

24. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of launching the application programs with the operating system is initiated by the operating system.

6